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# The Family Connection

Volume 5, Issue 6



**PARENT & FAMILY  
ASSOCIATION**

Questions? Email Us:  
[family@ufsa.ufl.edu](mailto:family@ufsa.ufl.edu)

## Important Dates:



Friday, January 27 - Deadline to sign up for the S-U Grade Option

Friday, January 27 - GatorNights!

Friday, February 3 - Degree Application due for students wanting to graduate Spring 2012

Friday, February 3 - GatorNights!

March 3-10 - Spring Break.

### In This Issue

[Important Dates](#)

[Housing Options](#)

[Financial Aid](#)

[National Mentoring Month](#)

[Summer Classes](#)

[Traffic Safety](#)

[Protect Against Laptop Theft](#)

[Quick Links](#)

## Housing Options

Spring semester is when students typically begin looking for housing, on or off campus, for the next academic year. There are many options, and finding the right location for your student can be tricky.



Before your student starts searching, check out the Off Campus Life Web site. Off Campus Life provides all types of useful information from what to look for in a contract to the specifics on each living facility. Your student's living situation can help a large role in his/her academic success. Visit <http://www.offcampus.ufl.edu/> for more information.

## Quick Links

Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs

Career Resource Center

Center for Leadership and Service

Counseling & Wellness Center

Dean of Students Office

Florida Opportunity Scholars Program

GatorWell Health Promotion



## Financial Aid and Bright Futures for Next Year

March 15 is the on-time financial aid deadline. Students are now required to fill out a FAFSA form every year to renew their Bright Futures scholarship as well as any other forms of financial aid.

UF's Office for Student Financial Affairs has special help sessions in February to help your student fill out their FAFSA paperwork if they need assistance. Each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, staff will be at residence halls around campus. Student can talk to financial aid professionals directly about any aspect of the financial aid process.

For dates, locations and times of these sessions, visit <http://www.sfa.ufl.edu/?p=579>

## National Mentoring Month

January is National Mentoring Month, and UF's Center for Leadership & Service has lots of ways your student can impact the community while building his/her resume.

In partnership with Alachua County Public Schools, your student can mentor children of all ages, depending on your student's preference. They can join student organizations such as After School Gators, Gator Teens Mentors, Motiv8, and Project MASCOT, or volunteer with community organizations such as Big Brothers Big Sisters or the Girls Place, Inc.

Learn more at <http://www.leadershipandservice.ufl.edu/involved.html#mentor>



## Summer Classes

GatorVet Health Promotion Services

Housing & Residence Education

J. Wayne Reitz Union

Multicultural & Diversity Affairs

Off Campus Life

Recreational Sports

Student Legal Services

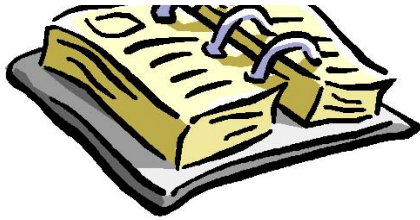


## Family Chat

UF's online Family Chat program is a great way to stay connected and informed! Join other UF family members and campus representatives for themed bi-monthly chat sessions. These live online sessions are designed to answer your specific questions and promote discussion about UF and common transition concerns you or your UF student may experience.

**Wednesday, January 25 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

**Thursday, February 9 from 5 p.m.**



Though spring semester is just beginning, it isn't too early to start planning for the summer.

From internships to jobs, study abroad programs to taking classes at a local college, there are lots of options.

If your student is planning on taking classes at an institution other than the University of Florida this summer, he/she must fill out a Transient Student Form. The form allows credits to be transferred over towards degree completion requirements.

The form can be found at <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/currents/transients.html>

## Headlight on Traffic

Street safety is very important, especially when so many pedestrians and cars share the same space.

Though some of this may seem like common sense, increased attention to mobile devices instead of surroundings can cause accidents. Please encourage your student to follow these tips from the UF Police Department.

When walking in traffic,

- Walk on the sidewalk
- Cross at intersections
- Look left, right and left for traffic
- Stay out of driver's blind spots

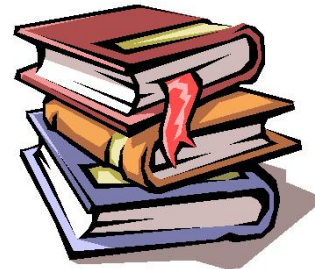
Crosswalk Etiquette:

- Vehicles must stop for pedestrians in designated crosswalks
- Pedestrians should behave predictably
- Pedestrians should pause before entering a crosswalk and look both ways to indicate their intentions to cross the street



**Wednesday, February 22  
from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

Learn more at the [Family Chat Web site](#).



## New Library West Hours

Library West is now open 24 hours a day, Sunday through Thursday from now through May 4, excluding Spring Break.

This is part of a pilot program funded by Student Government. Utilization of the hours will determine extended library hours in the future.

GATOR 1s will be needed for entrance into the building past midnight.



**Free On-Campus  
Tutoring Available**

street

Encourage your student to review more tips at [http://www.police.ufl.edu/pdf\\_files/2012SpringHeadlight.pdf](http://www.police.ufl.edu/pdf_files/2012SpringHeadlight.pdf)

## Protect Against Laptop Theft



Laptop loss and theft is a common issue for all universities. The University of Florida is addressing this issue with the laptop theft protection and recovery software program FrontDoorSoftware.

FrontDoorSoftware is a laptop security product designed to help with theft prevention, information protection, and laptop recovery. This product is offered free for four years to all University of Florida students, faculty, and staff. The program can be downloaded at [www.frontdoorsoftware.com/ufl](http://www.frontdoorsoftware.com/ufl). To get the software for free, students can simply use their University of Florida email address to create an account.

The University of Florida has chosen FrontDoorSoftware because it provides ten powerful features designed to protect your laptop in the event it is lost or stolen. The first screen someone will see when they turn on your computer is the theft prevention security ownership display screen, which provides the information needed to return students' laptop to them. This display screen and a visual security label are the first steps in protecting your laptop from theft.

In the event a student's laptop is stolen, he/she should file a theft report with the University of Florida Police Department at (352) 392-1111. After a report is filed, students should log into their FrontDoorSoftware account and report the stolen laptop. Learn more at <http://www.frontdoorsoftware.com/ufl/>

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University of Florida | Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs | PO Box 113250 | 155 Tigert Hall | Gainesville | FL | 32611

If your student is anxious about exams or homework assignments, extra help is always available at the Broward Teaching Center. Encourage your student to meet with a tutor early. Tutors are proficient in a broad range of subjects including economics, mathematics, statistics, writing, accounting, Spanish, and physical and biological sciences.

They offer individual tutoring and small group tutoring sessions. For more information visit them [online](#).



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